

In re Patent Application of:

TOWNSEND ET AL.

Serial No. 10/538,019

Filed: June 7, 2005

In the Specification:

Please replace the second paragraph on page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Timber pallets may be constructed in two basic styles, the first being made up of three (or more) bearers or stringers, with boards running across the top and bottom of these to make up a deck for supporting products. Boards are generally nailed on to the bearers, but may be screwed on or attached by other methods. The first and last boards on a given side are referred to as lead boards. The second style is similar but has blocks and connector boards in place of the bearers. Pallets of both styles may be constructed in a variety of sizes depending on their use and geographic location. Pallets may also be constructed in other materials, such as plastic, metal, composite materials or a combination of materials.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A pallet feature sensing head may be constructed in different styles. Firstly First, it may be constructed with a series of sensors in a line (linear array) to detect the presence or absence of timber (or other pallet material). This type of sensing head would be positioned adjacent to the moving pallet so that it scans the pallet surface passing near it. Such a sensing head would give a two dimensional image or map of pallet characteristic values. The values may be analog analogue or

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digital. This image can then be analyzed against a set criteria with the identified differences being used to determine if there is pallet damage as a ef pallet quality.